



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our website at www.nass.usda.gov/md/ and click on the Maryland Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maryland Tillage Practices Survey Results Released

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Maryland Field Office, has completed its 2012 survey of tillage practices for major field crops in the State. The survey is funded by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and conducted in conjunction with NASS’s annual June Agricultural Survey.

In 2012, conventional tillage was used on 10.0 percent of the major crop acreage in Maryland, down from 13.5 percent last year. No-till was practiced on 67.6 percent of the major crop acreage, and other conservation tillage practices (also known as minimum tillage practices) were used on the remaining 22.4 percent. Corn and soybeans are the two crops with the highest acreages. Conventional till was used on 12.5 percent of the corn acreage, no-till was practiced on 61.0 percent of the acreage, and the remaining 26.5 percent of the corn acreage used other conservation tillage practices. In soybeans, conventional till was used on 5.0 percent of the acreage, no-till was practiced on 82.1 percent of the acreage, and the remaining 12.9 percent of the acreage was cultivated using other conservation tillage practices.

Maryland: Tillage Practices by Crop 2012							
Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴
Corn	490,000	299,000	61.0	130,000	26.5	61,000	12.5
Soybeans ⁶	480,000	394,000	82.1	62,000	12.9	24,000	5.0
Winter Wheat ⁵	295,000	163,000	55.3	91,000	30.8	41,000	13.9
Barley	58,000	39,000	67.2	13,000	22.4	6,000	10.3
Total ⁶	1,323,000	895,000	67.6	296,000	22.4	132,000	10.0
¹ No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. ² Other Conservation Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. ³ Convention Till – Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. ⁴ Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. ⁵ Wheat seeded the previous fall for all intended purposes including grain, cover, silage, hay or any other utilization. ⁶ Total acreage includes Double-Cropped (Two crops harvested from the same field during one year.) acreage.							

Maryland: Tillage Practices by Crop 2011							
Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴
Corn	500,000	294,000	58.8	118,000	23.6	88,000	17.6
Soybeans ⁶	470,000	370,000	78.7	65,000	13.8	35,000	7.4
Winter Wheat ⁵	260,000	121,000	46.5	95,000	36.5	44,000	16.9
Barley	50,000	37,000	74.0	7,000	14.0	6,000	12.0
Total ⁶	1,280,000	822,000	64.2	285,000	22.3	173,000	13.5
¹ No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. ² Other Conservation Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. ³ Convention Till – Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. ⁴ Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. ⁵ Wheat seeded the previous fall for all intended purposes including grain, cover, silage, hay or any other utilization. ⁶ Total acreage includes Double-Cropped (Two crops harvested from the same field during one year.) acreage.							